Mumbai are expected to be published during 1997.

(b) and (c) The contract of the earlier contractor who failed to print the directories as per schedule has been terminated. Fresh tenders have been called for and offers received are under evaluation.

Reimbursement of the Amount under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme to Maharashtra

2025. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a proposal from the Maharashtra Government for reimbursement of the amount under Voluntary Retirement Scheme under the Renewal Fund for Textile workers; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has requested for assistance of Rs. 74.83 crores from the National Renewal Fund for payment of gratuity and compensation under the Voluntary Retirement Scheme to the staff of the Maharashtra State Textile Corporation Ltd. and the Textile Corporation of Marathwada Ltd. However, assistance from the National Renewal Fund has been provided for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme in Central Public Sector Undertakings only.

Telephone Exchange at Fatehpur Billoon, Faridabad, Haryana

2026. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Department of Telecommunications is in occupation of ground floor premises for telephone exchange at Fatehpur Billoon; District Faridabad, Haryana belonging to a private owner;

(b) if so, whether the lease agreement between the DoT and the owner of the building expired on 14.2.1993;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the owner of the building has been demanding its vacation by DoT for his own use; and

(d) if so, the steps Government have taken to vacate the said premises for handing over the same to its right owner?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Efforts are being made to procure suitable building premises for shifting the telephone exchange to another premises. It is proposed to vacate the said premises thereafter and handover the same to the owner.

Underground Lining of Telephone Cables

2027. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of automatic telephone exchanges in the country and in how many of them faults have been reported since their establishment during the last three years;

(b) whether one of the major faults in the working of the telephones has been lack of underground lines; and

(c) if so, by when the telephone lines proposed to be made underground to avoid faults, particularly during the rainy season?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Number of Automatic telephone exchanges in the country as on 30.9.96 are 21328. In all the telephone exchanges occasional faults always come and these are attended promptly.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Demand of Telephone Exchange for Panagarh/Bud Bud

2028. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the demand from the industrial and coal-belt of Asansol-Durgapur for setting up a Integrated Telephone Exchange System covering from Panagarh/Bud Bud to Barakar/Chittaranjan under local dial system;

(b) whether Government have received any representation recently from the M.Ps about the need for setting up this ITES;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to fulfil the demand of this area?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A joint representation dated 10.9.96 signed by a number of Hon'ble Members of Parliament has been received requesting that the exchanges located at Durgapur, Raniganj, Asansol, Chittaranjan, industrial & Coal-belt areas of Bankura, Adra etc. are covered through an Integrated Exchange System.

(d) This request has been examined.

As per the existing policy of the Department, an integrated exchange system also called group dialling system can be provided only within the same short distance charging area which roughly corresponds to a Tehsil. Since Panagarh-Bud Bud and Barakar-Chittaranjan are located in different short distant charging areas, they cannot have an integrated system. However, a new technology OCB 283 exchange with a capacity of 11000 lines has been commissioned in March, 1996 for connecting Durgapur SDCA exchanges. A similar large exchange of 14000 lines capacity has been planned for Asansol SDCA to cover exchanges at Barakar, Neamatpur, Chittaranjan, Raniganj and Burnpur.

Textile Training Institutions in Gujarat

2029. SMT. ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile training institutions, particularly handloom for cloth-weaving/dyeing/printing and designing set up in Gujarat State during the last three years;

(b) the total number of trainees admitted and completed training course in these training institutions during the above period, year-wise;

(c) the total number of trainees who got employment after the completion of their training course during the above period;

(d) whether Government had proposed to start more such type of institutes during the year 1994-95;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) by when these institutes are likely to be started and the funds earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) No handloom training institutions for cloth weaving/dyeing/printing and designing have been set up in Gujarat in the last three years.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Acquisition of Advanced Jet Trainer Aircraft

2030. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress so far made in the matter of acquisition of an Advanced Jet Trainer Aircraft;

(b) by when an AJTA in likely to be acquired; and

(c) the provision made for acquisition of an AJT aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) The Government has already approved acquisition of Advanced Jet Trainer aircraft in view of the requirement of the same for Stage III training of IAF's combat pilots. Commercial negotiations with shortlisted vendors have commenced to finalise the contract including delivery schedule. Acquisition of AJT aircraft is included in the modernisation plan of the IAF.

Financial Assistance to States for Drainage Channel

2031. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state: